

Bush River Community Council (BRCC) Meeting minutes for Monday, September 16, 2013

Attendance: Board Members: Randy Conlon, Michael Carr and Christine Henn. Jamie Meier, representative for Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti from District F., Lt. Hugh John Dougherty of the Harford County Sheriff's Office, Art Helton candidate for State Senate for District 34A, Andrew Tress representative for HC Council President Billy Boniface, Dion Guthrie Councilman for District A, Art Kaff, Jansen Robinson and Councilman Dion Guthrie from District A.

Randy Conlon stated he is leaving the job of Chairman of the BRCC. He has already informed the County Executive. Randy will stay on the board as a member. Randy recommended Chris Henn for the position and Chris has accepted the job as Chairman of the BRCC. Chris will start immediately.

Lt. Hugh John Dougherty: Reported on Crime in Sector 20. There has been a 9% drop in the area for the month of August. News release on September 16 stated there was a rise in auto theft due to visibility if valuables left in plain sight by owners of vehicles. Warning to all residents to make sure they remove anything they do not want stolen from their vehicles when they park their vehicles. Some county residents have noticed 2-3 men wandering the streets disguised as utility workers asking to gain access to your homes to check for pipes/wires. Please make sure you check ID badges, and if you are not sure, call the utility company to see if they are doing work in your area. Do not let anyone into your home before checking.

Art Kaff (from Board of ED): He came to our meeting on his own as a concerned citizen, not in any official capacity. He discussed the shortfall in the Board of Ed's budget that deals with the impact of the students who play sports and the new deal that if they want to play, they must "pay to play".

Questions were asked as to what was actually examined by the board before they came up with this plan. Answers were: transportation, cutting teachers. The board had to work long and hard on a solution in order to try to balance the budget given to them by the county council. This will be an ongoing problem and many different areas of the county will be affected in different ways. Many students who attend the schools in the Southern region of the county cannot afford to "pay to play." As well as many other students who play in other areas because they may play more than one sport. We are also losing good teachers to other counties because the salaries are better than in Harford County. We need more money from the state level. Harford County is wealthier than most people in the State of MD. If income values go up then the Harford County budget will go up. Also, if a student is on the FREE or Reduced meals program they do not have to pay to play and teacher's children are not affected.

Jansen Robinson: A citizen of Harford County stated the budget is not growing because of economics. We have to come up with a plan to do business in a different manner. County Executive offered to look at

the Board of Ed's budget, however, the board of Ed declined his help. This budget and the "pay to play" plan have hit students of Edgewood extremely hard. He had no idea that this was a county wide issue. The Board of Ed needs to revise policies in for the 2013-2014 school years. The Board of Ed needs to listen to the parents and have the parents back them instead of being against them. The parents are the taxpayers who vote representative into office, who have to listen to them and the issues and concerns. The school board should get as much help as possible when it comes time to do the budget.

BRCC member's comments: People want community schools. They do not want to see schools closing and then have to bus children to different areas. Parents who participate in volunteering in schools now, may not volunteer if their child is bused to a different school. And parents who do not participate will defiantly not participate. The Board of Ed needs to be careful about the decisions they make that may have long term affects. The Board of Ed should be establishing a relationship with parents. The

Art Helton, Candidate for Senate Seat District 34A: suggested that Board members should be going out to different schools and see how things are run before making decisions about the schools. If we keep doing business like we have been doing things, we will keep getting what we are getting. Things need to change, so we can figure out a way to improve our schools.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted for approval by Chris Henn 10/28/13